

Descent from France:

OR, THE

French INVASION of England,

CONSIDERED and DISCOURS'D.

12. May. 1692

LICENS'D, May 10. 1692.

That there is, or at least has been, an intended Invasion from *France*, Headed by King *James*, is too apparent; and that the greatest Encouragement to such an Undertaking, must be the expected, if not promised Succours ready to join him upon the Descent, is as plainly evident. Now that there can be such a Party of *Englishmen*, and those professing themselves Protestants too, (for the *Romanists* are no part of our wonder) whose Reasons and Sense can be so lost and depraved, as to conspire with such a Design, is not a little stupendious.

The business of this Paper therefore, is to examine, What Consequences they can expect from the Success of such an Invasion; and what Rewards they shall make themselves, in Assisting the Return of King *James*.

In the first place, Do they flatter themselves, because, forsooth, the greatest part of our Invaders, for the more plausible pretext, are composed of *English*, *Scotch*, and *Irish*, Natives and Subjects to the Crowns of *England*, that therefore King *James*'s Service (so poor a mask) is all the business of this Expedition? Have we forgot since so lately in *Ireland*, the *French* King could hardly hold the Vitor on till the Conquest of that Kingdom, where the very *Irish* themselves began to be jealous (and with too much cause) of their pretended Friends, but intended Lords, the *French*? And that no *Anguis in Herba*, no *French* Reserve lies at the bottom of this Invasion.

Secondly, Do they think this Succour to King *James*, tho in so important a Service as Resettling him upon his Throne, can deserve any grateful Return? and upon that Encouragement they found the Safety of their Religion and Liberties, in any Promises of Security from that Obligation. Alas! is it so late since woful Experience convinced them, that Acknowledgment or Gratitude, are no part of a Popish King's Principle; witness, the unkind return he made to that very *Church of England*, that more than once, were so exemplarily zealous for securing the Crown upon his Head, in their strenuous opposition against both the *Bill of Exclusion*, and *Monmouth's Insurrection*. And if both those deserving Services, those accumulated Obligations were such feeble Cobweb-Laws, shall any thing done in his Service now, make a stronger Tye upon him? No, quite to the

contrary. For example, The *Church of England* had then twice obliged him, and never once offended him; besides, there was not only a Coronation Oath, but his first voluntary Declaration at his assumption of the Government; one would reasonably think enough to bind him to Performance. But how little all those Bonds signify, when the Cancelling Hand of *Rome* came into Play; we have but too much reason to remember. And if all those Tyes, I say, could not hold then; what can we hope for, when there neither is, nor can be any Tye at all to hold him now? For example, suppose the blind and mistaken Frenzy of some of our Protestant Zealots, (if that name can be proper for them), could remove him so his Throne, what shall they deserve for it, any more than the Title of *Impious Servant*? Their turning him out from the Throne, together with the remembrance of the dear *Irish* Blood shed by them, and the rest of our Faults, are such Capital Transgressions, that the restoring him into it again, will not be half our Expiation. And supposing he publishes the most mollyfying Declaration upon his Landing, that all the Eloquence of *Rome* can put together shall that oblige him? No, so far from it, that it neither is, nor can be any more than a scroll of waste Paper. For supposing the Contents of it should run in these flattering Insinuations, viz. What wondrous Clemency he would shew us upon our return to our Allegiance, and with what Moderation he would Reiga over us, upon our re-admitting of him to his Throne, with all the most solemn Protestations, and what not. Now as 'tis unlikely that King *James* should ever return without Opposition, and undoubtedly a very strenuous one; it being impossible we should be all drawn in with the specious Bait of sweet words, and fair Promises; and consequently, he must have a Blow for it. Supposing, nevertheless, I say, his Party so strong, and his Success so great, as to recover his Kingdoms: Upon such a recovery, whatever he promises in his Declaration, is from that Moment, null and void. For the Consideration is not performed, and consequently, the Obligation cancell'd. For instance, he comes not in by our Submission, and return to our Allegiance, but by Force and Conquest. And as such, not only his Declarations, but his very Coronation-Oath, without the stretch of a mental Reservation, are all actually absolved. And if Law, nor Oaths, Service, nor Fidelity, as before-mentioned, were able to keep his

his *Romish* Zeal in any Bounds or Limits before; what shall the loosening of 'em all expect now? And consequently what driving *Jebu* must we look for, when that black Day comes, (which Heav'n of its mercy keep far from us.) And whatever private Gratuities or Favours some particular Eminent Protestant Hands may possibly receive for their signal Services in this Revolution, nothing of sense but must conclude us the miserablest Nation and People in the World.

Besides, could we look for Miracles, and expect a Reign of Clemency from him, our *Religion* and *Civil Rights* secured; what a Crew of *Irish* Dear-Joys that come over with him, are here to be rewarded, all Preferment and Honours, nay, the fat of the Land to be canton'd out amongst them: And consequently the Power in these confiding Hands, the whole Nobility, Gentry and Commonalty of *England* must live under the check and awe of *Tories* and *Rapparees*, and submit to all the Insults of Miscreants and Vagrants; and well we compound so cheap.

Nay, though some People fancy we shall at least enjoy this Blessing of being eased from Taxes by his Return; 'tis so much a mistake, that in the other Exream, that very shadow vanishes too. For what must this Expedition cost the *French* King, and what must all his *Irish* Arrears, and other infinite unaccountable Sums amount to, which must all lie upon this ruin'd Nation to satisfy, with a very courteous Complement into the Bargain, if the *French* King will graciously and mercifully please to demand no more. Nay, perhaps the whole Charge of his several Years Naval Preparation; (for had King *James* continued on his Throne, most of all that Expende had been saved) must lie at our Door, a Score too terrible even to think of; and take it altogether, a very grateful Payment out of the Protestant Pockets to so prodigious a Champion of the Protestant Religion, as King *Lewis*.

But for once (though contrary to common sense) granting we should allow all in his Favour, that the most zealous *Jacobite* can pretend, viz. That King *James* upon his return to the Throne, shall to a tittle perform every particular Article in his very Declaration, as plausible soever as it may be penned, viz. We'll suppose, that the *French* King shall disclaim, directly or indirectly, all Pretensions whatever to *England*, that the Restoration of his Friend King *James* is his only part and design in this Expedition; and King *James* on the other side, shall abjure all manner of violation to the Laws, shall support the Protestant Religion, and (making a Seamark of his former Wreck,) shall peaceably keep up to the full observance of so generous a Profession: granting all this, I say, and whatever other imaginary Security his dreaming Party can form to themselves; nevertheless, in the fairest Face, let us observe the dismal and tremendous Effects of his Restoration. 'Tis known to the whole World to what the *French* Ambition tends, viz. Universal Monarchy. And 'tis as notoriously famous what Desolations and Ravages the Arms of *France* have made, and how formidable that Successful Destroyer is, even to the whole united Powers of *Europe*. And as his present Majesty King *William*, is, possibly, (without a vanity) the Leading Champion of the whole Confederacy, and all little enough to make head against *France*; upon King *James's* return to the Throne, here is not only so potent an Arm as the Alliance of *Britain* lopt off from the Confederacy, but added to the Strength of *France*. For tho

in his Reign before, he only stood Neuter, with little or no other Assistance to his Idoliz'd Grand *Lewis*, than his heartiest Vows and Prayers for the success and prosperity of that encroaching Enslaver of Mankind: Yet now he will lie under a more pressing obligation; and the least return even of common Gratitude for his remounting him on his Throne, will be to lift under that Tyrant's Standard, and joining the Arms of *England*, to the finishing and crowning the whole Designs of that universal Aspirer. And as the whole Confederacy already, is little enough to match him; upon this Revolution in *England*, 'tis impossible to expect less than that the whole Cause of *Christianity* must sink, and all *Europe* truckle beneath him. And whilst the *English* hands must bear so great a part in this fatal Turn (to give it no harder Name) what is it but a making our selves the Monsters of Mankind, the inevitable Instruments and Tools to that grand Cut-throat of *Christianity*. And what has some little palliation on his side, as having the pretence of Renown and Honour, in the Quest of Laurels and Enlargement of Empire, &c. will on our part amount only to Butchery and Desolation, for meer Butchery and Desolations sake. The Glory, if any, will be *Lewis's*, and the Infamy *England's*. Infamy indeed, (if we meet with no worse Reward) when we consider what barbarous part we must act in the yoking and shackling of *Europe*. But suppose it ends there, and that will be the only Brand in the *English* Scutcheon: And that *Lewis* in his grasp of Universal Empire, shall exclude *England* from any part of his Feudatories, and Tributaries, viz. he shall make Golden Promises to King *James*, and once in his life (his first virtue of that kind) keep Faith, and no worse follow, (a very unlikely Flattery:) yet what an Eternal Shame to the Old *English* Honour, the sleeping Dust of our Third *Edward*, and Fifth *Henry*, and indeed the whole *British* Chronicles, is our portion, in aggrandizing of *France* to that prodigious Bulk and Growth, and dwindling our selves to that diminutive and despicable state and condition, as are and must be the unavoidable consequences of King *James's* Restoration.

Granting the *Jacobites* therefore, all their own Delusions can shape, that King *James* shall forget and forgive; shall rule by Law, and turn a Saint upon a Throne: And that the disinterested *Lewis* shall have no other Designs upon *England*, but purely King *James's* Assistance; yet still the most they can look for, is perhaps, to enjoy a little *English* Liberty (upon their own supposition) during the short Remnant of King *James's* Days, whilst his Gray Hairs, perhaps, shall fill the Seat: But I wonder any reasonable man, that pretends but to common Sense, can think it possible that *France* should engross the Dominion of *Europe*, and *England* ever hope to continue the only Exempt from the Universal Yoke; Is there that Frenzy so mad as to fancy it? No, all our best Hopes will be to be swallow'd last, and the annexing of *Brittain*, a Province to *France*; and consequently to groan under all the Slavery and Vassallage of a *French* Government, is the undoubted Fate of *England*; and hereby the Restoration of King *James*, in its favourablest Aspect, brings no less Fatality along with it, than entailing of Misery upon us to the end of the World; and all the Honour our Protestant Restorers will reap, is to be the Ruine and Curse of their whole Posterity, their very Names and Memories loath'd and abhor'd to all succeeding Generations.